

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **March 26, 2002**

AGENDA ITEM NO.:

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **Work Session**

CLOSED SESSION:
(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: **Request for Resources to Support Temporary Detention Orders (TDO) Transport**

RECOMMENDATION: Appropriate \$30,000 from the General Fund Reserve for Contingencies for the purchase and outfitting of an additional police sedan for the transport of TDO patients.

SUMMARY: State law requires that law enforcement agencies provide for the transport of patients under Temporary Detention Orders (TDO). TDO's are issued by the Magistrate's Office on the recommendation of physicians at the hospital. In most instances TDO transport only involves the transfer of the patient from Lynchburg General Hospital to Virginia Baptist Hospital. Such transports are performed by hospital staff. From time to time, however, due to a lack of bedspace at Virginia Baptist, a patient must be taken to another facility outside of Lynchburg. The nearest facility is Arise, in Forest. Other facilities are located in western Virginia and at Virginia Beach. It is transports to these latter two locations that creates a considerable challenge to the City's resources. For some time, there has been an ongoing discussion between the Centra Health, the Lynchburg Police Department, the Sheriff's Office, the City Attorney and the City Manager's Office in an effort to identify resources and craft procedures to comply with this unfunded state mandate. Resolution proved difficult until the Police Department recently stepped up and developed the attached procedure. We are seeking Council's approval to utilize the General Fund Reserve for Contingencies to purchase and equip one additional vehicle for TDO transports. It is estimated that there may be as many as five (5) TDO transports a month out of the area.

PRIOR ACTION(S): None

FISCAL IMPACT: \$30,000 from the General Fund for Contingencies. There will also be overtime costs involved but they cannot be quantified until we have some experience with the program.

CONTACT(S): Kimball Payne, Colonel Bennett, Walter Erwin

ATTACHMENT(S): Resolution; TDO Transport Procedure

REVIEWED BY:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED That \$30,000 is appropriated from the General Fund Reserve for Contingencies for the purchase and outfitting of an additional police sedan for the transport of patients under Temporary Detention Orders (TDO).

Introduced:

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

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February 14, 2002

POLICE DEPARTMENT

RECEIVED

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COUNCIL/MANAGER
OFFICES

Mr. George Dawson -- CEO, Centra Health
1920 Atherholt Road
Lynchburg, VA 24501-I 104

Mr. Dawson:

The Chief of Police has instructed to me to provide you with updated information on out-of-jurisdiction TDO transport procedures developed by the Lynchburg Police Department in conjunction with the Lynchburg City Manager's office. These procedures are as follows:

1. All **ECO** cases will continue to be transported by LPD officers to the Lynchburg General Hospital Emergency Room for follow-up mental health evaluation within 4 hours. This is consistent with current practice.
2. TDO transports between Centra Health facilities (such as from LGH to Virginia Baptist Hospital) will continue to be conducted by Centra security officers (designated as Special Police **Officers**) utilizing Centra vehicles. This is consistent with current practice.
3. TDO transports to the ARISE facility (located on Rt 221 in Forest) will be conducted, as necessary, by on-duty Lynchburg Police officers. (A proposal to utilize Lynchburg Sheriffs Office deputies for ARISE transports during business hours is pending at this time. In any case, TDO transports to ARISE taking place after business hours will be conducted, as necessary, by on-duty LPD officers.)
4. All other out-of-jurisdiction TDO transports will be conducted by a team of 2 off-duty LPD officers, who will be called back to duty upon notification that a TDO transport is required.
5. Transports will be conducted during the period 8:00 am to approximately 8:00 pm daily, 7 days per week.
 - TDO transports will be scheduled so as to arrive at the destination facility no later than **10:00** pm -- any transport that is not projected to arrive at its particular destination by **10:00** pm will be delayed until 8:00 am or later on the following day.
 - This guideline is in keeping with LPD and Centra Health transport safety concerns.
 - TDO patients requiring transport under the circumstances cited above will be retained within Centra Health facilities until the next scheduled transport time.
 - LPD resources will allow a maximum of 2 separate TDO transports during the same time period.
 - Two LPD vehicles are being specially equipped for these transports, as a means of minimizing opportunities for TDO patients to harm themselves during transport.
 - Additional TDO transports can normally be scheduled as soon as either or both of these vehicles return to the City.



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- In cases where more than two TDO patients require long distance transport at one time, Centra Health staff will be responsible for prioritizing these transports.
 - All TDO patients transported in LPD vehicles will be restrained according to LPD prisoner transport procedures.
 - TDO patients transported to the ARISE facility will have hands secured by handcuffs in all cases.
 - TDO patients transported to other out-of-jurisdiction destinations will wear hand and leg restraints in all cases.
6. Centra Health staff will be requested to provide certain patient and transport-related information in cases of long-distance TDO transport:
- A medically-trained Centra Health- representative will be requested by transport officers to affirm that the TDO patient appears to be physically capable of long distance travel while wearing arm and leg restraints and seated in the rear of a police sedan.
 - TDO patients not deemed physically capable will not be transported by police vehicle, for obvious liability reasons.
 - A Centra Health representative will supply the transport officers with the following **transport-related** information:
 - the name and street address of the destination facility
 - a destination facility contact person's name, telephone and pager numbers
 - all patient-related documents or medical records required by the destination facility.
7. Transport personnel will be selected from a listing of sworn LPD officers who have volunteered to conduct off-duty transports.
- The LPD selection list will be posted in the basement of the 905 Court St facility.
 - The on-duty North Patrol Division supervisor will be responsible for notifying call-out list officers to respond.
 - Centra Health representatives will notify the LPD that a TDO transport is required by:
 - contacting the Lynchburg Emergency Communications Center (telephone number: 911)
 - requesting a telecommunicator to notify the North Patrol Division supervisor to contact a designated Centra Health representative to obtain transport information.
 - TDO transport response time will be affected by the time required to notify off-duty personnel and access transport equipment.
 - The Lynchburg Police Department's capability to perform TDO transports may be constrained by circumstances to include:
 - a TDO patient's physical size or condition rendering him or her unable to safely travel seated, seat belted and with limbs restrained by shackles
 - unusual occurrences or special events that tie up the LPD staffing and equipment resources available for this function
 - inclement weather conditions at any point along the transport route.

Regarding TDO transport implementation schedule, the following preparatory steps are ongoing at present:

- two vehicles are in the process of being equipped for TDO transport (one vehicle should be retrofitted no later than 3-20-02, with the second vehicle retrofitted shortly thereafter)

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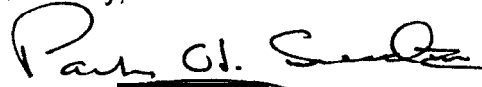
- a listing of officers for call-out is being assembled
- training of LPD personnel in these transport procedures is ongoing.

While our preparations are still ongoing, I believe that the LPD is capable of initiating TDO transports (within the guidelines cited above) at this point.

Please ensure that Centra Health personnel involved in TDO patient care are familiarized with these transport procedure guidelines. I have copied this information to Ms. Miranda Breit as a means of expediting this process.

Please feel free to contact me (at office telephone 847-1402) if you require any further information. I recommend that you contact either the City Manager or the Chief of Police to discuss any procedural concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Parks H. Snead, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Captain Parks H. Snead, III
North Patrol Division Commander

copies: Colonel Charles W. Bennett, Jr., Chief of Police
~~Mr. L.~~ Kimball Payne, III, Lynchburg City Manager
Major Jack K. Lewis, Deputy Chief, Field Operations
Ms. Miranda Breit, Director of Mental Health Services
LPD command staff
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